

# THE WEEKLY OBSERVER:

BEING

## A NEW SERIES OF THE STAR.

Vol. I.

SAINT JOHN: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1828.

No. 21.

### THE GARDEN.

From the Atlantic Souvenir, for 1829.

#### THE CONSRIPT'S FAREWELL.

BY E. M. CHANDLER.

Farewell father,  
I had hoped that I should be  
In this age a staff for thee;  
But when years have mark'd thy brow,  
When thy step is weak and slow,  
When thy hair is thin and white,  
And thine eye has lost its light,  
I shall never seek thy side,  
And thy faltering footsteps guide.  
Where my country's banners fly  
Prosperity's distant light,  
To the battle forth I speed,  
There to fight and there to bleed;  
Not because the form's the best,  
Gilters in the vale of France;  
Not because a stranger's hand,  
Thine round my father's hand;  
Not at glory's trumpet call,  
Nor in freedom's cause I fall;  
Not because ambitious power  
Tears me from my peaceful tower.  
Yet I might the battle strife,  
In the closing hours of life,  
Think not that my heart shall quail,  
Spirit droop, or courage fail.  
When the boldest deed is done,  
Where the laurel wreath is won,  
Where the standard eagles fly,  
There thy son shall proudly die,  
Though perhaps no voice may tell  
How the nation's conqueror fell.  
Thy blessing, father.

Farewell mother,  
It is hard to part from thee,  
And my tears are flowing free.  
While around thee gloom and night  
Quench'd religion's blessed light,  
Still thou hast my blessing voice  
In the evening hymn rejoice,  
And my child's prayer was said,  
Ere thou blest my pillow's head.  
Oh, before I leave thee now,  
Place thy hand upon my brow,  
And with every treasured word,  
That my infant ears have heard,  
Bless me, mother.

Farewell brother,  
Many a home of boyish glee  
I have pass'd in joy with thee;  
If with careless word or tongue  
I have ever done thee wrong,  
Think upon thy brother's love,  
And be all sin forgiven;  
Thou may'st dry our mother's tears,  
Soothe our sisters' anxious fears,  
Be their shield, their guide, their stay,  
Throughout many a coming day;  
Farewell with every blessing word,  
Be what it were nice to be,  
And I still remain'd with thee,  
And love me, brother.

Farewell sisters,  
Ye are our favourite vine,  
You must sow its tendrils twine,  
And when health is lendly bow,  
You are met at evening hours,  
Think how oft in by-past days,  
There we sat on the grassy plain,  
Till our beaming eyes were wet  
With the tears of fond regret;  
Then together forth we went,  
And your gentle voices blend,  
Pry for me, sisters.

### THE WITHERED LEAF.

(From the same.)

Upon a lofty forest oak,  
Fand' by the breeze, or sparkling in the dew,  
From infancy to age in beauty grew,  
Though all its life was but a season brief;  
Wither'd and shrunk, at length, to nature's grief,  
And loosen'd from its parent stem, it blew  
Into my bosom. "So, alas! thou too  
Shalt fall," it seem'd to say, "nor be thou deaf  
To this my voice: like a water-wraith, stream  
Thy youth, thy loveliness, have pass'd away,  
And all thy years have vanish'd like a dream:  
Thy song must even fall, which day by day  
Was heard among the flowers; nor shall one gleam  
Of cheerful'd glory, light thee to decay!"

### THE MISCELLANEOUS.

#### CROSSING THE LINE.

"There it is at last," said the midshipman of the watch to a young Irish cadet, who was standing near him on the poop of an outward-bound East India man: "there it is at last." "What is it?" asked the young soldier. "The line, to be sure—the equinoctial line, which we have all been so anxiously looking out for." "Ah now—sure you don't mean to persuade me that you can see it?" "Take my glass then, and look out yonder, about a point on the lee bow, and persuade yourself whether you can see it or not." The young Irishman had no sooner put his eye to the tube than he exclaimed, "Sure and there is a line yonder; I do not see it without the glass, but it cannot be very far off." "No it is not very far off," said the Mid, laughing heartily. "It is all in your eye, Pat. Do you remember the story of the fly on the clergyman's spectacles? Look at the glass." On examination a hair was found sticking horizontally across the lower lens of the telescope, which had been fixed there by the mischievous Mid.

"The sun was just setting—the clouds were tinged with all the gorgeous hues of a tropical sky, assuming every variety of strange and grotesque appearance, and the water reflected back the image of the heavens, if possible, with increased splendor. As far as the eye could reach, nothing was visible but the glassy undulating surface of the sea, trimmily rippled here and there under the partial influence of the cat's paw, which played over it. The ship was gliding slowly over the smooth expanse of water—her large sails flapping heavily against the masts at the sea rose and fell, and her smaller canvas just swelling with the breeze, and lending its feeble aid to urge her onwards. Groups of passengers were lounging up and down the quarter-deck, and some, or leaning over the hammock nettings, admiring the beauties of the evening, while the ship's officers were doing all in their power to murder time and harmony for their amusement. The sea-men were in high ale, for the quarter-master had heard the officer of the evening watch report the latitude at noon to the Captain 20° N.; and they knew that Neptune would soon make his appearance. Just as the increasing dusk of evening began to render objects indistinct and obscure, the look-out on the fore-castle called out, "A light ahead, Sir!" "Very well, my boy; keep your eye upon it, and let me know if we near it," said the officer of the deck. In a short time the man exclaimed, "The light is close aboard of us, Sir," and immediately a loud confusing roar was

heard, and a Steatorian voice bawled out, "Ho! the ship ahead!" "Ho! the ship!" and "What ship is that?" "The Heavtree." "What, my old friend Captain Blowhard? He is welcome back again. Tell him his old friend Neptune means to pay him a visit to-morrow at ten o'clock, and hopes he will warn his children to have their chin in readiness for the razor. Good night." "Good night," "Won't you go forward and see Neptune's ear," said the young Mid, to our friend Pat: it is worth your while to look at the old boy whisking along at the tail of half a score of dolphins, with a pool light, as big as the full moon, blazing over his stern: you can see him quite plain from the fore-castle." "Sure, I'll go see the fun whatever it is," said Pat, and off they ran, followed by about a dozen of the poop loungers—the referer suddenly disappearing, and the galley boys and cabin ends rushed upon the fore-castle, where they had hardly effected a safe landing, when—splash—splash—splash—bucket after bucket of water came thundering down upon their heads from the foretop; and loud shouts of laughter, from all parts of the ship, and a merry, uproarious joy at witnessing the astonishment and discomfort of the gullies. In the meantime, Neptune's ear, in the shape of a lighted tar-barrel, went slowly astern, raising an uneasy flickering light on the sails and rigging as it past, and was seen leading in the distance, till its dwindling flame disappeared in the distance, like a star sinking beneath the horizon.

The character of the scene was completely altered since the final disappearance of the sun below the horizon. A brilliant moon shone clear and brightly in a cloudless sky, her bright beams riding on a path of liquid silver over the sea, while the gigantic shadow of the ship seemed to be skimming its way through the myriads of glittering stars, reflected from the thickly clouded heavens.

No sooner were the decks washed in the morning, than the "active note of preparation" was heard among the sailors, who had been for weeks anticipating the pleasure of that day. The jolly-boat was taken down from the boom, and placed at the gangway; all the pumps in the ship were set in motion, the scuppers chucked to prevent the escape of the water, and in a very short time the whole deck was afloat; while the jolly-boat full to the gunwale, was ready to answer the purpose of a comfortable bathing-tub, and a party-colored pole erected over it, with a sign purporting that this was Neptune's easy shaving-shop. A screen was drawn across the fore-part of the main, to conceal the operations of the actors in the approaching ceremony. All was bustle and animation; the carpenter's gang converting an old gun-carriage into a triumphal car; the gunner preparing flags for its decoration; his mate busy with his paint-brush adorning the tars who were to act as sea-horses; and the chauffer preparing to be putting on Neptune's livery. At length all was ready for the reception of the king of the sea.

"On deck there!" cried the man at the mast-head. "Hollo," replied the officer of the watch. "A strange sail in sight, right ahead, Sir." "Very well, my boy, can you make out what she is?" "She looks like a boat, Sir." The officer made his report to the Captain, who desired to be informed when the boat was near the ship. Among the apparently joyous group on the poop, many a white cheek was now seen to be bright with the laughter of its owner; the carpenter's gang, the mainmast, and the Captain made his appearance on deck to inspect the approaching stranger.

"Ho! the ship ahoy!" cried a loud voice ahead; "lay your mantles on to the mast, and give the hoar for the hoar; let the maintop-bowline! Afterward! I square away the mainyard!" bawled the officer of the deck repeating the Captain's orders.

A single note was now heard, and Neptune made his appearance over the ship's bows. He was dressed in sheep-skins, with a faxen beard descending to his waist, and a trident in his hand, with a fine fish sticking on the prong. After he had descended into the main, the screen we have before mentioned was withdrawn, and the procession moved on. First came the ship's band, fantastically dressed for the occasion, and playing "Rule Britannia," with might and main; next followed the triumphal car, decorated with various coloured flags, in which were seated Neptune, Amphitrite, and Triton; and immediately in the rear followed the suite, consisting of the barber, doctor, scrub, and about a dozen party-colored deal-gods, acting as water-balls. Previous to the outset of the procession, all those unfortunate who were to be shaved, were lined up in a row below; the gratings were laid on fore and aft, and sentries stationed at the hatchway to prevent an escape. On came the pageant: Neptune looked as majestic as his trident and sheep-skins could make him; Amphitrite, with the assistance of a little red paint, and odium locks, and arrayed in the cast off robes of some of the lady passengers, was a passable representation of a she-monster; the barber brandished his razors—the scrub displayed his list, and looked vastly knowing, with his three-cornered hat, flower'd wig, and curled hair, and ink-horn dangling at his button-hole; the horses pranced as uncouthly, and looked as unlike sea-horses as possible; and the coachman, proud of his livery and shoulder-knots, cracked his whip, and his horses for labor, and contrived, by not driving out "hard-a-port!" to his horses, to smother the after-hatchway, and then bear up round the captain, where, with a graceful "pull up" of the reins, very much like "a strong pull at the main-brace," and "an' avast there to his bedstead can be stopped the car." The Captain was waiting under the poop awning to receive Mr. Neptune, and an interesting conversation commenced, too long to be inserted here, but which ended in his Majesty's giving the Captain to understand that his long coronation was not to be a mere show; that his Majesty's lady a vile cold in the stomach; that which the Captain's steward perfectly understood, and administered to his wants accordingly. The whole of his suite were immediately seized with the same complaint, and all required the application of the same remedy. Neptune then thrust his trident to the Captain's steward with a graceful air, as if he meant to impale him, but it was merely for the purpose of presenting the fish on his prongs, as an addition to "his honour the Captain's dinner." During this interview, the men were standing near the gangway, armed with buckets of water, wet swabs, &c. and impatient for the commencement of the fun. At length the band struck up "Off she goes." "Carry on, you lubbers," said the coachman; crack went the whip, off pranced the horses, and away whirled the car, which nooner approached the gangway than the procession was greeted with torrents of water, and his godship was half smothered with his own element. After the first effusions of greeting were over, Neptune left his car, and mounted up on the boom, where he sat in regal state to superintend the operations of the day. Beside him was seated the fair Amphitrite; her dripping white-robes glued to her elephant-like limbs, and her wet oakum locks clinging to her cheeks, like sea-weed to a weather-beaten rock. The clerk handed to his Majesty a list of his children, who were recommended to kind and particular attention. "Saunders MacQuake is the first on the list," said Neptune: "bring him up." Aways scampered the trident (or constable), who were naked to the waist, the upper part of their bodies hideously painted, fantastic-looking caps on their heads, and short painted staves in their hands. The main hatch grating was lifted, and up came poor Saunders, with a face as white as the barber's chief which covered his eyes, and shivering with anticipation, shouder'd by two ironies. His tormentors seated him on the edge of the jolly-boat at the gangway, and the barber, turning towards Neptune, said "Please your honour, which shall I use?" holding up at the same time three razors, two of which might well have been mistaken for saws of different magnitudes, and the third made of a smooth iron hoop,

without any teeth. "Let us hear what he has to say for himself first," said Neptune: "where do you come from?" "From Scot—oh oh!" cried the poor fellow, as the barber thrust a well-lubbed tar-brush into his mouth. "How long is it since you left it?" "But Saunders had gained experience; he set his teeth, pressed his lips together, and set a ludicrous close of fear mixed with desperate resolution. "A close close, I see," said Neptune; "give him soap to soften his phiz, and teach him to open his mouth." The barber lathered his patient's cheeks with tar, brandished his smoothed razor with becoming grace, and completed the operation without scraping much skin off. The doctor, with his vial of tar-water, and his box of indestructible pills, stood by, ready to take advantage of every involuntary gasp of the poor Scotchman. At a given signal, the standard was taken from his eyes, and he was thrown suddenly backwards, and left foundering in the water till some charitable hand dragged him out. Half-drowned, and blinded with salt water, he rushed onwards, he knew not where, like a hare before gunners, and stumbled over a rope stretched purpose across the deck as a trap for the unwary, and while he lay prostrate he received the contents of all the buckets in the ship on his head. Again he rose—again he ran—and again he fell; but at last, having on the quantity through the whole length of the scud, he gained the fore-castle, seized a bucket, and hastened to console himself for his fright and suffering by inflicting upon another all that he had endured himself.

All the uninitiated danced to the same tune as Saunders, with the barber's variations of—smash, rougher, roughest; and it would be tedious, as well as unnecessary, to describe the course of treatment pursued by the doctor towards each individual patient. When the whole list of the condemned had been gone through, Neptune (now a water-god no longer) divided below to take his share of the extra grog allowed to the ship's company; the small sails (which had been previously forfeited) were set by the watch, and a light breeze springing up, as if in honour of Neptune's departure, the Heavtree, with all her canvas spread, began to move slowly and steadily through the water beneath its influence.—London Weekly Review.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.—I will here give you a somewhat curious anecdote, on the truth of which you may rely. Situated by that curiosity which is rather a striking feature in my idiosyncrasy, I rode up to a neighbouring eminence, to observe the motions of our own army which had already commenced, as well as those of the enemy, who, from the occasional pushing forward of their skirmishes, seemed intent on some further operations. On this height were several officers, one of whom was seated, while his horse was held by an orderly dragoon, and the others standing around him. I had approached within a few yards of them before I observed that the principal object in the group was Lord Wellington. In a moment my attention was arrested. He was at luncheon, and in the act of adding mustard to a slice of meat which had just been deposited on his plate, when the following colloquy took place:—"The enemy are moving, my Lord, a striking feature in my idiosyncrasy, I rode up to a neighbouring eminence, to observe the motions of our own army which had already commenced, as well as those of the enemy, who, from the occasional pushing forward of their skirmishes, seemed intent on some further operations. On this height were several officers, one of whom was seated, while his horse was held by an orderly dragoon, and the others standing around him. I had approached within a few yards of them before I observed that the principal object in the group was Lord Wellington. In a moment my attention was arrested. 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